



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 14, 2014

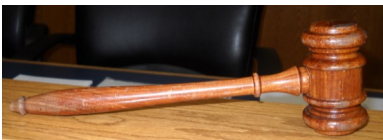
Pages Learn About Legislature



Big Ideas in Government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding around the concepts deepened. On Friday, they wrote about one of the big ideas to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

Pages write bills, hold mock hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues

which were relevant to them and the state. They discussed the criteria for making a legislative solution work before selecting issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates on class computers to formulate official-looking documents in preparation for mock committee hearings on Thursday. Topics for policy bills included gun violence, plastic bag pollution, welfare fraud and smoking in cars. Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon.

Verbal Harassment in Washington Schools

Olympia – House Bill 2698 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Corbin Alcott, Sophie Rock, and Kai Sorem. “This bill addresses the issue of verbal harassment and will try to stop bullying in schools,” said Rep. Alcott. This bill will put workshops in Washington schools to stop bullying. “I just feel verbal harassment has gone too far and something needs to change, so many students are impacted by this issue,” explained Kai Sorem. Our bill will be the foundation to prevent and stop verbal harassment in Washington schools.



Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool> This newsletter has been posted there.

Factory Farms Cruel Treatment of Livestock Exposed



Olympia – Senate Bill 5847 was introduced yesterday by Senators Phoebe Anderson, Clara Andrews, and Elizabeth Bensussen.. “This bill addresses the issue of animal abuse and will help regulate methods of factory farms to be

safe and humane to the animals,” said Sen. Anderson. This bill will require all factory farms to video record their slaughter houses. The tapes will be turned into the USDA biannually so that their methods may be approved to be humane and not cruel to the animals. Currently, videos that contain the abuse of the livestock are illegal and nearly impossible for the public to view. “The videos should not be illegal because the citizens of Washington deserve to know if the animals they are consuming are being terribly mistreated,” stated Sen. Andrews.

Katie’s Law in Washington State

Olympia – House Bill 2461 was introduced yesterday by Representative Maria Morrison. “This bill addresses the issue of taking DNA samples of all arrested felons and will result in repeat offenders being caught, imprisoned, and prevent them to further harm anyone,” explained



Rep. Morrison. With this bill, anyone arrested for committing a dangerous felony such as assault or murder would have a DNA sample taken and put into a national database. Because 51% of all felons have or intend to hurt more people, this bill would help to convict offenders for all their crimes and get the sentence they deserve.

Second-hand Smoke is Harmful to Children

Olympia – House Bill 1212 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Mikaela Francis, Tarra Moore, and Grace Ren. “This bill addresses the issue of second-hand smoking and will ban adults from smoking in vehicles when minors are present,” said Rep. Ren. Washington state already requires that foster children



not be exposed to second-hand smoke. State laws should extend this to all children. “Young Suzie, strapped into her car, doesn't know how to tell the driver that she can't breathe; she can't explain the constricting feeling in her lungs- she may cry, but that only makes the feeling stronger. We need someone to speak for young Suzie, and others like her who can't speak for themselves,” said Rep. Moore.

EBT Card Fraud On Lock Down

Olympia – Senate Bill 6666 was introduced yesterday by Senators Hugh McInnis, Kennedy Mills, and Joshua Hopkins. “This bill addresses the issue of EBT card fraud and will require EBT cards to have a photo ID and name on them. The limit for replacement



cards will be one every year. This will reduce the ability to sell fraud cards and use them,” said Sen. Hopkins. The DSHS offices replaced on average 27,000 EBT cards last year each month. It is now seen that the location of many EBT card uses were in strip clubs and casinos, not to care for needy children. If there was a photo on the card, not everyone would match the picture. The limit would keep the selling of EBT cards at a minimum, because if you sold yours, you could not just go out and get a replacement.

Under-Compensation of Washington State Teachers

Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Jacob Walker and Nicholas Howe. “This bill addresses the issue of the under-compensation of Washington teachers and will require a new state-wide salary minimum for teachers,” said Rep. Howe. This bill will set a minimum salary of \$50,000 for all teachers with a Bachelor's degree in Washington State. “This salary minimum incorporates more than enough money to cover the cost-of-living from all around the state. Our state's teachers more than deserve this past-due salary increase,” stated Rep. Walker. The monetary funds to cover these new costs will be pulled from the state's distribution of education funds from the McCleary Act decision of 2012.



Healthier Lunches Make Healthier Kids



Olympia – Senate Bill 5678 was introduced yesterday by Senators Damon Sterne, Sylvia Coulson, and Stephen Sharp. “This bill addresses the issue of childhood obesity and will greatly reduce the amount of children suffering from

health issues due to obesity,” said Sen. Sterne. The bill will work to improve the quality of lunches in schools by eliminating unhealthy choices. In addition, kids will be better educated on how to eat well and to make good decisions about exercising daily and keeping in shape. This will absolutely reduce the numbers of kids that are suffering from health issues.

Mandatory Gun Locks

Olympia – Senate Bill 5271 was introduced yesterday by Senators Rachael Johnson and Elizabeth McInnis. “This bill addresses the issue of gun violence and will reduce the number of fatalities resulting from gun violence,” said Sen. Johnson. Of the 62 mass shootings in the U.S. from 1982-2012, 49 of the guns used were obtained legally, 12 were not. “This does not specify whether or not those guns had gun locks. If those illegally obtained guns had locks, it would reduce the stolen rate,” said Sen. McInnis. Today, gun locks are not mandatory. If all guns had that safety measure, there would be less chances of gun violence.



A Healthier Bill



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Avery Postera and Veronica Braun introduced Senate Bill 6784, which addresses the issue of childhood obesity. “The bill is a good one because it will make for a better and healthier generation that will reverse the plague of obesity in Washington,” Sen. Postera. Today, 17 percent of American children are considered

obese. We plan on requiring all students to take a physical education class at the correct level of intensity and test them in a long-distance running (i.e. the mile), perform push-up and sit-up tests, and have a body fat percentage test. The results of a student’s test will be a factor in their final GPA.

Sleep Deprived Teens

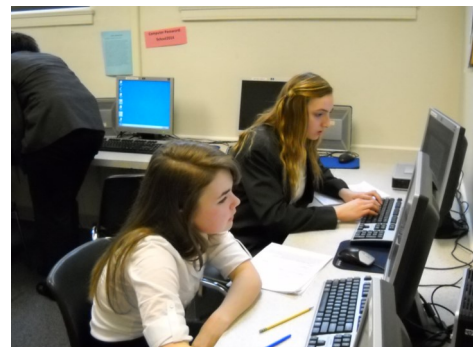
Olympia – Senate Bill 5280 was introduced yesterday by Senators Kira Steinbrecher and Hannah Pederson. “This bill addresses the issue of teenagers’ sleep deprivation correlating with school schedules and will help teens think clearer and



avoid health problems,” said Sen. Steinbrecher. The Legislature will require that high school starting times be no later than 9am. This will provide teens with more sleep which has proven to enable them to increase their grades, learning, alertness, and attendance in school. “Allowing students to start school later would provide them with the extra sleep they need to improve concentration. It would also help keep them off the streets from 3-6 p.m., peak hours for juvenile crime,” explained Representative Zoe Lofgren, D-California.

Juveniles or Adults?

Olympia – House Bill 3812 was introduced yesterday by Representatives McKenna Bryant and Courtney Jensen. “This bill addresses the issue of charging juveniles as adults and will give juveniles the



help they need instead of putting them in a harsh environment,” said Rep. Bryant. Studies show that there is neurological evidence that teenagers’ brains are wired differently than adults. Juveniles in the adult system have a 34% more likely chance to commit violent crimes again rather than those in the juvenile detention center. Juvenile detention centers focus on treatment and rehabilitation while the adult jail focuses on punishment.

Watch us live at TVW.org

Search for Page School in the Archives to watch yourself in the committee hearings.

Wolf attacks in Eastern Washington



Olympia – Senate Bill 7712 was introduced yesterday by Senators Elsa Ericksen and Meghan Harting. “This bill addresses the issue of

wolves in Eastern Washington and will reduce the number of wolf attacks on livestock,” said Sen. Ericksen. Wolf attacks on livestock cause ranchers thousands of dollars due to the death or injury of their livestock. Ranchers have been unable to kill the wolves that attack their livestock because it is illegal now that wolves are listed as endangered in Washington State, but not federally. This bill requires ranchers to purchase a specific license to kill the wolves if an attack has evidently occurred on their property.

The Death Penalty

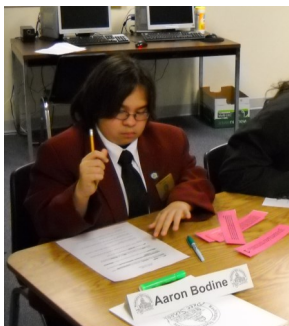
Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Luke Boyd and David Baker introduced House Bill 3989, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “The bill is a good one because it



reduces the cost of the death penalty,” stated Rep. Baker. California could save \$1 billion over the next five years by replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment. The average cost of defending a trial in a federal death case is at minimum \$620,932, about eight times that of a federal murder case in which the death penalty is not sought. Maryland abolished the death penalty in May,; it was the sixth state to do so in the last seven years.

Helping the Homeless

Olympia – Senate Bill 7540 was introduced yesterday by Senator Aaron Bordine. “This bill addresses the issue of homeless kids in Washington State and will help by providing more shelters for them,” said Sen. Bordine. It will create more shelters for the homeless using money from taxes on marijuana sales. It is important because it will give kids somewhere to go.



Stop Gun Violence in Schools



Olympia – Senate Bill 5270 was introduced yesterday by Senators Warren Backholm, Mathias Anstensen, and Noah Fox. “This bill addresses the issue of deaths resulting from gun violence in schools, and will reduce the amount of innocent deaths caused by gun violence in

schools,” said Sen. Fox. The bill will require that a ratio of 1 school staff member for every 100 students be armed with a small firearm in every public school across the state. Proper training will be provided by military or police volunteers to the armed teachers.

Improving Science and Math Education

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Sydney Fox-Middleton and Kimberly Baker introduced House Bill 3764, which addresses the issue of Science and Math Education. “The bill is a good one because it will increase grade results and student ability in the real



world,” explained Rep. Fox-Middleton. Many students leave high school unable to move into a career. In addition, teachers spend more time counseling and socializing with kids rather than teaching them, making the students weak in the knowledge of basic math and science.

Stopping Hunger

Olympia – House Bill 1999 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Linda Pettigrew, Jessica Swanson, and Miracle Adams. “This bill addresses the issue of Hunger and will reduce the growing number of hungry families in Washington State,” said Rep. Adams. It requires schools to provide the students food with proper nutritional value. Schools will also be required to provide a snack for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch as they leave school which should help to prevent hunger at home as well. The health department will set standards on nutritional values that schools will be required to meet. If schools fail to meet these standards, funding will be pulled from their sports programs.



Decreasing the Premature Deaths



Olympia – Senate Bill 5109 was introduced yesterday by Senators Emily Borske, Olivia Ferguson, and Rachael Campbell. “This bill addresses the issue of harmful food additives

and will regulate the amount of destructive additives and eliminate some of the more harmful ingredients,” said Sen. Borske. Harmful food additives, such as trans fat and partially hydrogenated oils found in processed foods can create many harmful health risks, such as type two diabetes, high cholesterol, and heart disease. This will assist in improving the economy by producing more jobs and increasing the money in circulation. Food will have less harmful chemicals, and more natural ingredients, which will in turn decrease the amount of severe health risks and drastic diseases.

Page Program over 120-years-old

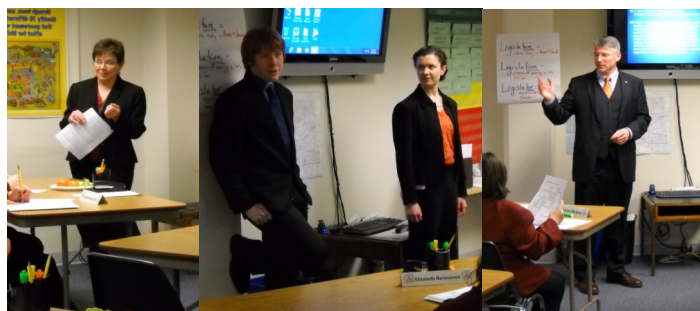
The Legislative page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members. Page duties today are much more professional and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the Senate and House.



Experienced Teachers

Leo O’Leary has been teaching and coaching in and around Olympia for the past ten years and is in his third session as a Page School teacher. “I really like the fact that I can help kids make their dreams come true through both education and athletics,” he said as he introduced himself on Monday.

Nicole Swenson has taught middle and high school level students for over ten years. Currently, she works for the ESD as an adjunct instructor training teachers to use technology in their classrooms and leading online professional development book studies for educators. “I enjoy watching the pages present and defend their bills during the mock committee hearing. It’s always so fun!”



Guest Speakers Visit Page School

Emily McCartan, coordinator of the Senate Interns, brought Senate intern, Andrew Blackwood; Judi Orr, an OPR staff member and former page school teacher; and Rep. Chad Magendanz from the 5th district joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each shared insightful information in regards to the legislative process in Washington State. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker’s questions.

Competitive edge results in *Jeopardy* win

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

